Expansion of UN Security Council

1015. SMT. CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the statement reported to have been made in January, 1993 by the new US Secretary of State. Mr. Warren Christopher, that it is time for some re-organisation of the UN (Security Council); and

(b) if so, which are the countries likely to be offered permanent membership of the Security Council and what is the position of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No proposals have been made offering permanent membership of Security Council to any country so far. The question of restructuring of UN including the question of expansion of Security Council is under discussion in the UN. The discussions are at a preliminary stage. India has been emphasising the need to expand the Security Council, with equitable representation, in an effort to build a consensus. At the 47th UNGA, India and others tabled a Resolution on "Question of equitable Representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council" which was adopted by consensus. The Resolution requests the Secretary General to invite Member States to submit, not later than 30 June, 1993, written comments on a possible review of the membership of the Security Council. The Resolution further requests the Secretary General to submit to the General Assembly at its 48th session, for its consideration, a report containing comments made by Member States on the subject.

Chemical Weapons Convention Signed by India

1016. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Chemical Weapons Convention recently signed by India in Paris; and

(b) what special responsibility does this treaty impose on India, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) The objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is to prohibit the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling or transferring of chemical weapons by any State party to the Convention. The complex and difficult negotiations in which India played an active role, were concluded in the Conference on Disarmament after 12 years, in September, 1992. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted it by consensus and India co-sponsored the resolution in the UNGA. At the signing ceremony in Paris (13-15 January, 1993), 130 countries joined the CWC as original signatories. The Convention Comes into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the 65th Instrument of Ratification, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature. The CWC is a multilaterally negotiated disarmament agreement which is universally applicable, comprehensive in scope and non-discriminatory in character with a stringent international verification regime. It is in accordance with the Government of India's disarmament policies. The universal verification regime will become operational only after the Convention comes into force. Verification obligations for all States parties relate to the objectives given above.